

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8601

INFO HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2494

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PEPR, PBOR, US, SO, ET

SUBJ: ETHIOPIA EXPRESSES "CONCERN" OVER US-SOMALI
MILITARY RELATIONSHIP

1. ON INSTRUCTIONS OF PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (PMAC), MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AMERICAS DIVISION HEAD BERHANE DERESSE CALLED ME IN LATE AFTERNOON JUNE 5 TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER PRESS REPORTS OF USG DECISION TO SUPPLY "LARGE QUANTITIES OF ARMS TO SOMALI REPUBLIC." USG SHOULD KNOW SIAD'S ASSURANCES ARE WORTHLESS AND "ARMING OF SOMALIA AT THIS CRUCIAL STAGE IS TANTAMOUNT TO ENCOURAGING A NEW SERIES OF FIGHTING." ALTHOUGH FORCED OUT OF OGADEN, SOMALIA HAS CONTINUED TO INFILTRATE REGULARS, CAUSE SABOTAGE AND GENERALLY PROVOKE ETHIOPIA, HE REPORTED (CORRECTLY). WHILE ETHIOPIA BELIEVES USG DESIRES TO PROMOTE PEACE AND HAS GRANTED AGREEMENT TO AMBASSADOR CHAPIN AS A POSITIVE GESTURE, PMAC WANTS AMERICAN EMBASSY TO CONVEY TO WASHINGTON THAT DECISION TO ARM SOMALIA "WILL CAST DOUBT ON US INTENTIONS."

2. DRAWING ON REPORT OF SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER RECENT GUIDANCE CABLES, I TRIED TO ASSURE BERHANE THAT USG IS DETERMINED TO MONITOR SIAD'S ADHERENCE TO HIS PROMISE WHILE LOOKING INTO MILITARY RELATIONSHIP
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AND BEFORE PROCEEDING TO DELIVER ANY DEFENSIVE SUPPLIES.

3. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, SOCIALIST ETHIOPIA CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO STOMACH ANY SUPPLYING OF EQUIPMENT TO SOMALIA WHICH WILL ENHANCE ITS MILITARY CAPABILITY, DEFENSIVE OR OFFENSIVE. BERHANE EVEN REITERATED THREAT, THOUGH MILDLY WORDED, TO CARRY WAR OUTSIDE OF ETHIOPIA'S BOUNDARIES SHOULD SOMALIA INCREASE

ITS MILITARY ACITVITIES INSIDE OGADEN. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT
PMGSE IS STILL HOPEFUL THAT IT CAN REVERSE WHAT IT SEES AS US
DECISION TO ARM SOMALIA AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO KEEP US EXECU-
TIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES WELL AWARE OF SOMALI MILITARY
ACTIONS. TONE OF MEETING WAS THOROUGHLY CORDIAL.

4. FULL MEMCON FOLLOWS.
MATHERON

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Message Attributes

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